

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 10-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 were previously cancelled. Claim 12 is allowed. Claims 10, 11 and 13-16 are rejected. New claims 17-27 are added via this Amendment.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS:

The Examiner has made the present Action “final.” However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not sufficiently provided an explanation of his actions and, therefore, the finality of the present rejection should be withdrawn.

Specifically, the Examiner now responds by 1) repeating language of Applicants’ claims; and 2) citing various columns of Madden. However, in accordance with MPEP §707.07(f), “where applicant traverses any rejection, the examiner, should, if he or she repeats the rejection, take note of the applicant’s argument and answer the substance of it.” Also, the Examiner “must provide clear explanations of all actions taken by the Examiner during prosecution of the application.” (See *Id.*) This must be done to “enhance the clarity of the prosecution history record.” (See *Id.*) Repeating Applicants’ claim language does not answer the substance of Applicants’ arguments, and the bare citing of portions of Madden does not provide a clear explanation of the Examiner’s action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the finality of the present rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 10, 11 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Madden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,516,239 [hereinafter "Madden"]). Applicants traverse the rejection in view of the following remarks.

One aspect of the present invention is the ability to provide a method and apparatus for manufacturing film rolls. Claim 12 is allowed because the Examiner acknowledges the failure of Madden to disclose the claimed features regarding the slit number and block numbers. (See section 4 of the Office Action.) Applicants hereby further define the claims to focus on particular aspects of film roll processing procedures.

Independent claim 10 is amended to describe the manufacturing of "rolled medium" (e.g., film roll) products, and "rolling the medium." Similarly, claim 13 is amended to describe means for feeding "rolled medium" products, while dependent claim 18 describes a "means for rolling the medium." New dependent claims 19-27 further define the features of claims 10 and 13.

Applicants respectfully assert that Madden clearly does not disclose a manufacturing process or apparatus including features drawn to a rolled medium. Further, the presently claimed features provide benefits not contributed by the prior art in the area of manufacturing film rolls. As noted on pages 1 and 2 of the specification, quality control of previously used film roll manufacturing methods and apparatus have encountered difficulties.

Applicants submit that the present amendments should be entered because they place the case in condition for allowance since Madden is presumably the closest prior art, as evidenced by

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/014,607

ART UNIT 2125
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the lack of any additional references applied against allowed claim 12, and as required by MPEP §706, and 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2).

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

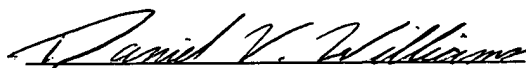
Respectfully submitted,

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